
SECTION: **FOOD DELIVERY SYSTEM**

SUBJECT: **Overview**

ITEM: *Food Delivery System*



Policy

The State of California Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program provides supplemental food to program participants through a retail purchase system, utilizing food instruments printed by a local agency with the identification of a specific authorized grocer. The State WIC Branch monitors food instruments from the time checkstock is sent to the local agency to use to print food instruments, until the food instruments have cleared the bank.

**Basis for
policy**

7 CFR 246.12 (r) (5) & (s)

**Contents of
food
instruments**

Each food instrument may be redeemed for specific food items at a specific authorized grocer. Participants select a grocery store from the current list of authorized grocers. The following food prescription information is then printed on the food instrument:

- Participant's individual number, generated by the Integrated Statewide Information System (ISIS),
 - Name on the ISIS family record,
 - First day the food instrument may be redeemed by the participant,
 - Last day the food instrument may be redeemed by the participant,
 - Food instrument serial number which must match the preprinted serial number already on the food instrument,
 - Grocer's authorization number,
 - Grocer's name,
 - Grocer's address,
 - Type of food to purchase,
 - Quantity of food to purchase, and
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**Contents of
food
instruments,
(cont'd)**

- Maximum allowable dollar amount for the food purchase, (except milk food instruments).

The participant presents the food instrument to the specified authorized grocer where the food instruments are used to purchase authorized foods. At the time of purchase, the actual selling price of the specified foods is entered and the participant or alternate signs the food instrument.

For milk food instruments no dollar amount appears. Due to fluctuations in milk, the amount the grocer is reimbursed is determined monthly, based on milk prices, and grocers are informed of the maximum they can charge for that month.

The participant has 31 days to redeem the food instrument for food items before the food instrument expires on the “last day to use.” The grocer is allowed 45 days from the “first day to use” date in which to deposit the redeemed food instruments in a commercial bank.

The grocer is reimbursed for the food instruments by the grocer’s bank after they are processed through the State’s banking system.
